

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

polymerizing a vinyl ester monomer in a mode of emulsion polymerization in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol serving as protective colloid and in the presence of a water-insoluble, hydroxyl group-containing compound having a saturation solubility of at most 8 g in 100cc of water at 60°C, and

wherein the water-insoluble compound is selected from the group consisting of a water-insoluble ester alcohol compound comprising a reaction product of a polyalcohol having from 2 to 50 carbon atoms with an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 1 to 30 carbon atoms; ethylene glycol monophenyl ether; diethylene glycol monophenyl ether; polyethylene glycol monophenyl ether; and propylene glycol monophenyl ether.

Claim 2 (Original): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol contains from 0.5 mol% to 20 mol% of ethylene units.

Claim 3 (Original): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the polyvinyl ester resin emulsion is an emulsion of a copolymer of a vinyl ester monomer and ethylene.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, hydroxyl group containing compound is a said water-insoluble ester alcohol compound.

Claim 5 (Original): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, hydroxyl group-containing compound is a water-insoluble, aliphatic ester alcohol compound.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, ~~hydroxyl group-containing~~ ester alcohol compound is propylene glycol mono-2-ethylhexanoate.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, ~~hydroxyl group-containing~~ ester alcohol compound is 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol monoisobutyrate.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, hydroxyl group-containing compound is a water-insoluble ~~glycol ether compound~~ ethylene glycol monophenyl ether.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, hydroxyl group-containing compound is a ~~phenyl group-containing glycol ether compound~~ diethylene glycol monophenyl ether.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An adhesive, comprising: ~~which comprises~~
a polyvinyl ester resin emulsion obtained according to the method of claim 1.

Claim 11 (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein a mean particle size of the polyvinyl ester resin is at most $1\mu\text{m}$ measured according to a dynamic light-scattering method.

Claim 12 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, hydroxyl group-containing compound is polyethylene glycol monophenyl ether.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, hydroxyl group-containing compound is propylene glycol monophenyl ether.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended as supported at page 10, line 6 from the bottom, at page 11, lines 4-13 and at page 12, lines 6 to 1 from the bottom.

New Claims 11-13 have been added.

New Claim 11 is supported by the Examples of the present invention, see for example Table 1 at page 25.

New Claim 12 and 13 are supported at lines 6 to 1 from the bottom of page 12.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-13 will now be active in this application.

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INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Yoon for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on November 6, 2003. The Claims as presently amended were discussed. Ehmann et al fail to disclose or suggest the water-insoluble compound as claimed. In addition, the starch is not present during the polymerization in Ehmann et al. In fact, the starch is distributed after the emulsion polymerization (Ehmann et al, abstract).